

Message Text

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ACTION SR-02

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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 918

UNCLAS GENEVA 1230

FOR S/R - FRANK KELLOG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, UNHCR

SUBJECT: UNHCR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. YOU WILL RECALL THAT AT THE 25TH SESSION OF UNHCR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF WHICH YOU SERVED AS CHAIRMAN THE DELEGATION OF UGANDA OFFICIALLY SUGGESTED THAT THE COMMITTEE'S 26TH SESSION BE HELD AT KAMPALA. THE UNHCR NOW FEELS OBLIGED TO DEAL WITH THIS SUGGESTION AND OFFICE HAS DRAFTED THE FOLLOWING LETTER AND AIDE-MEMOIRE WHICH, SUBJECT TO YOUR AGREEMENT, WOULD BE SENT TO THE HEAD OF THE UGANDAN DELEGATION OVER YOUR SIGNATURE.

QUOTE:

I WISH TO REFER TO THE GENEROUS SUGGESTION MADE BY THE UGANDA DELEGATION AT THE 25TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO THE EFFECT THAT THE COMMITTEE'S 26TH SESSION BE HELD AT KAMPALA, ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ADDITIONAL COSTS INVOLVED SHOULD BE DEFRAIDED BY THE UGANDA GOVERNMENT. IN APPLICATION OF THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON THE SUBJECT, AS RECORDED IN PARAGRAPH 87 OF THE REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE'S SESSION (A/AC.96/511), A PLAN OF EXPENDITURE HAS BEEN PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER AND THE CONFERENCE SERVICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN UNCLASSIFIED

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GENEVA. DETAILS ARE ENCLOSED WITH THIS LETTER, IN

THE FORM OF AN AIDE-MEMOIRE.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S RESOLUTION 2609 (XXIV), IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF YOU WOULD KINDLY CONFIRM THAT THE UGANDA GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO DEFRAID THE ADDITIONAL COSTS INVOLVED IN HOLDING A SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAM IN KAMPALA INSTEAD OF IN GENEVA, IN AN AMOUNT OF \$180,500 AND TO PROVIDE THE LOCAL STAFF AND SERVICES ALSO REFERRED TO IN THE AIDE-MEMOIRE.

I WOULD BE GRATEFUL TO RECEIVE YOUR REPLY AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE SO THAT I MAY BE ABLE TO CONFIRM YOUR GOVERNMENT'S INVITATION TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, AND ASK THEIR VIEWS ON THIS IMPORTANT MATTER.

I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU AND I HOPE THAT OUR PATHS MAY CROSS AGAIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

YOUR SINCERELY. UNQUOTE

QUOTE: AIDE MEMOIRE

CONCERNING THE PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF HOLDING A SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAM AT KAMPALA, UGANDA, IN OCTOBER 1975.

1. FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE IN KAMPALA, AS REGARDS ACCOMMODATION (CONFERENCE ROOMS AND OFFICE SPACE), COMMUNICATIONS (TELEPHONE, TELEX AND TELEGRAPH), AND REPRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS. ON THIS LATTER POINT SOME ADJUSTMENTS MIGHT BE NEEDED IN ORDER TO MEET UNITED NATIONS REQUIREMENTS. THE COSTS INVOLVED WOULD BE COVERED FROM THE CONTINGENCY RESERVE, REFERRED TO BELOW, IF NECESSARY.

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2. THE INSTALLATION OF OFFICES AND EQUIPMENT AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MINIMUM ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SMOOTH FUNCTIONING OF SECRETARIAT SERVICES WILL REQUIRE ONE DAY. TRAVEL TIME FROM GENEVA TO KAMPALA WOULD INVOLVE TWO DAYS. UNDER UNITED NATIONS ARRANGEMENTS, STAFF WOULD NORMALLY BE MOVED DURING THE WEEKEND. THE FOLLOWING MONDAY WOULD BE SPENT SETTING UP THE OFFICES. THE

SESSION WOULD THEREFORE START ON A TUESDAY. IN RECENT YEARS, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SESSIONS COVERED SEVEN WORKING DAYS, FIVE IN THE FIRST WEEK AND TWO IN THE SECOND. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM CONCERNING THE ROLE AND WORK OF THE COMMITTEE (OF PARA 38C OF THE REPORT ON THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION), AND THE REQUEST FOR THE SUBMISSION OF MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON SPECIAL OPERATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION, THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION MIGHT LAST EIGHT WORKING DAYS. THE

SESSION MIGHT THUS BE CONCLUDED ON THE THURSDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK, AT THE LATEST.

3. ACCORDING TO ESTIMATES PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA, THE IDENTIFIABLE COSTS INVOLVED OVER AND ABOVE THE COSTS THAT WOULD NORMALLY BE INCURRED FOR AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SESSION IN GENEVA, AMOUNT TO \$180,500 INCLUDING \$16,500 (I.E. 10 PERCENT) THEREOF AS A CONTINGENCY RESERVE. THIS WOULD INCLUDE APPROXIMATELY \$90,250 FOR PER DIEM AND TRAVEL OF UN CONFERENCE SERVICES, WHICH COMPRISE: LINGUISTIC SERVICES (INTERPRETATION, PRECIS WRITING, TRANSLATING AND SHORTHAND TYPING) AND DOCUMENTS SERVICES (REPRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION). AN AMOUNT OF \$90,250 WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR TRAVEL AND PER DIEM OF UNHCR STAFF, INCLUDING SUBSTANTIVE OFFICERS FROM EACH DIVISION, THE CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT AND TWO PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICERS, AND ALSO TO COVER THE COST OF UNHCR COMMUNICATIONS FROM GENEVA TO KAMPALA DURING THE SESSION. IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR THE SERVICES OF A FEW TECHNICIANS (ONE PERSON FOR SOUND RECORDING

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AND ONE FOR THE INTERPRETATION ONSOLE), MESSENGERS, AS WELL AS DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTION AND REPRODUCTION CLERKS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE LOCALLY. IT IS ASSUMED FURTHERMORE THAT UNHCR COMMUNICATION FROM KAMPALA DURING THE SESSION AND TRANSPORTATION OF STAFF WITHIN KAMPALA WOULD BE PROVIDED FOR BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

4. IN ADDITION TO THE IDENTIFIABLE COSTS, THERE ARE THE INVISIBLE COSTS. THESE COSTS, PART OF WHICH CANNOT BE ASSESSED IN MONETARY TERMS, STEM MAINLY FROM ADMINISTRATIVE DISRUPTION, IN THE SENSE THAT A NUMBER OF STAFF MEMBERS, NOTABLY SENIOR STAFF, WHOSE PRESENCE IS REQUIRED THROUGHOUT THE COMMITTEE'S SESSION, BUT NOT NECESSARILY AT ALL MEETINGS, ARE

PREVENTED FROM ATTENDING THEIR NORMAL DAY-TO-DAY DUTIES IN GENEVA. THIS IS PARTICULARLY NOTICEABLE IN A SMALL ORGANIZATION SUCH AS UNHCR. THE SAME WOULD APPEAR ALSO TO APPLY TO SOME OF THE GOVERNMENTAL DELEGATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE. THERE IS ALSO THE SPECIFIC PROBLEM OF PROVIDING INTERPRETATION SERVICES. IN VIEW OF THE WORLD SHORTAGE OF INTERPRETERS, THIS PROBLEM CAN MORE EASILY BE SOLVED AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF ONE OF THE UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES, WHERE A POOL OF INTERPRETERS IS USUALLY AVAILABLE.

5. SINCE THE COMMITTEE'S TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION, A NEW RESOLUTION (3351(XXIX)) HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHICH PROVIDES THAT ANY DEPARTURE FROM THE ESTABLISHED CALENDAR OF CONFERENCE SHOULD BE SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL TO A NEWLY ESTABLISHED COMMITTEE OF 22 MEMBERS WHICH IS AT PRESENT BEING SET UP. ON THE CALENDAR APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IS SCHEDULED TO HOLD ITS SESSION IN GENEVA. IF THE MAJORITY OF MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE GENEROUS INVITATION OF THE UGANDA GOVERNMENT, THE PROPOSAL WILL THEREFORE NEED TO BE SUBMITTED FOR CLEARANCE TO THE AFOREMENTIONED COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES. UNQUOTE.
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2. THE UNHCR WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING YOUR VIEWS ON THE ABOVE COMMUNICATION BEFORE PREPARING IT IN FINAL FORM FOR YOUR SIGNATURE. DALE

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